

Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-05 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-20 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 MCE-00 /106 R

DRAFTED BY ACDA/PA:JMPOPE:CF
APPROVED BY ACDA/PA:TAHALSTED
-----005040 172201Z /14

P 171949Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY
USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY

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USSALTTWO/CTB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: AUGUST 17 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR

1. VERNON GUIDRY JR. OF WASHINGTON STAR REPORTED THAT
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PRESIDENT CARTER HAS REJECTED REQUEST FROM SHAH OF IRAN FOR
WEAPONS CARRYING SOME OF MOST SOPHISTICATED ELECTRONIC
WARFARE GEAR IN U.S. ARSENAL. GUIDRY REPORTED THAT U.S.
OFFICIALS SAID CARTER ACTED LAST WEEK ON PROPOSED SALE OF
F-4 FIGHTERS WITH "BLACK BOX" ELECTRONICS REQUESTED BY
SHAH. "ONE KNOWLEDGEABLE U.S. OFFICIAL, PERHAPS TRYING TO
PUT BEST FACE ON SITUATION, SAID DECISION WASN'T SO MUCH

REJECTION AS COUNTEROFFER," GUIDRY REPORTED. "U.S. HAS RECONFIRMED ITS OFFER OF 31 F-4S THAT LACK SOPHISTICATION OF PLANES IRAN REQUESTED.... ANOTHER OFFICIAL EQUALLY IN POSITION TO BE FAMILIAR WITH DECISION SAID DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WHAT IRAN WANTED AND WHAT IT WAS OFFERED WAS SUFFICIENT TO MAKE DECISION 'MAJOR TURNDOWN.'" IN U.S. INVENTORY, AIRCRAFT SHAH WANTED, CALLED WILD WEASEL, IS DESIGNED TO FOIL AND ATTACK OPPOSING AIR DEFENSE RADAR SYSTEMS.

2. DON OBERDORFER OF WASHINGTON POST SAID PRESIDENT CARTER

HELD LENGTHY MEETINGS WITH SENIOR ADVISERS YESTERDAY "AMID INDICATIONS THAT HE WILL VETO 36 BILLION DOLLAR WEAPONS PROCUREMENT BILL." CARTER HAS UNTIL MIDNIGHT AUG. 17 TO SIGN BILL, VETO IT OR ALLOW IT TO BECOME LAW WITHOUT HIS SIGNATURE. "AN ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL CLOSE TO SITUATION SAID LAST NIGHT THAT CARTER HAS MADE 'FIRM DECISION' TO REJECT MASSIVE MILITARY BILL, WHICH WOULD BE AN ACTION WITH LITTLE OR NO PRECEDENT IN RECENT TIMES," OBERDORFER REPORTED. HE SAID MAIN ITEM OF DISPUTE IS GIANT, NUCLEAR-POWERED AIRCRAFT CARRIER, COSTING TWO BILLION DOLLARS, WHICH WAS ADDED BY CONGRESS AFTER AN ACTIVE LOBBYING CAMPAIGN BY NUCLEAR SEAPOWERS ADVOCATES, INCLUDING SOME UNIFORMED OFFICERS OF NAVY. POST REPORTER QUOTED INFORMED OFFICIAL AS SAYING THERE IS "VERY STRONG SENTIMENT" IN WHITE HOUSE FOR REJECTING BILL, BUT ALSO UNCLASSIFIED

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"GREAT CONCERN ABOUT POLITICAL COSTS." VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLICIES, AMBASSADORS, ARMS CONTROL MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE209086
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JPMPOPE:CF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780337-0078
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780852/aaaabrpf.tel
Line Count: 95
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3f98fc61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ACDA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1706652
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AUGUST 17 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL INTEREST LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR
TAGS: PARM, SOPN, WASHINGTON STAR, (GUIDRY, VERNON JR)
To: GENEVA USSALTTWO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3f98fc61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014